



## **Boater Education & Seminars: A Major Draw at This Year's Toronto International Boat Show with the Most-Ever Topics, Experts and Speakers**

*440+ free seminars and eight speaker locations throughout the show offer a wealth of resources, inspiration, tips and how-to's for every boater*

*PLUS – Hear Mark Fuhrmann's extraordinary 11,000 km, 268-day, solo kayak expedition through Canada and the US wilderness*

Toronto, ON – The countdown is on! Preparations are well underway for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto International Boat Show as organizers get ready to pack more than 1,000 boats and PWCs inside the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place in over a week – not to mention the setting up of more than 500 retail exhibitors, readying hundreds of new products for market debut, and overseeing the engineering marvel that is the world's largest indoor Lake for boating.

So while show organizers, along with Canada's leading manufacturers, dealers and exhibitors from across North America get ready to welcome the industry and public for **First Look Friday on January 19<sup>th</sup>** (doors open at 1pm), boaters are already getting a head start on planning their Boat Show itineraries with an impressive line-up of seminars!

There are more than 440 free seminars, eight seminar locations, and exciting new additions including the **NEW Traeger Grills Flavour Stage** featuring cooking demonstrations, bbq recipes, and sampling!

Popular seminar speakers such as ocean race skipper **Diane Reid** will be back, along with new guests including Canadian kayaker **Mark Fuhrmann**, who recently completed a 11,000km solo expedition starting from Nova Scotia down to the Gulf of Mexico and back, to raise more than \$100K for charities including Captains Without Borders, a non-profit charity that supports underprivileged women through maritime training.

For full seminar schedules and information about the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Boat Show taking place from January 19 – 28, at the Enercare Centre, go to [www.TorontoBoatShow.com](http://www.TorontoBoatShow.com). Find us on social media @torontoboatshow.

### **2024 Seminar Highlights:**

#### **The Greater Loop: Alone on the Edge - Mark Ervin Fuhrmann**

Canadian record-holder Mark Fuhrmann recently completed a solo kayaking mission for nearly 300 days last August to become the first person to kayak solo from Halifax, to the Mississippi, Gulf of Mexico, and back; at 65 years young. His 11,000 km, 268-day expedition through Canada and the US wilderness, brought unthinkable psychological, physical, and sometimes life-threatening challenges. Along the way, he raised more than \$100K for charities including Captains Without Borders, a non-profit charity that supports underprivileged women through maritime training for their officer's certificate. Mark makes his debut at the Toronto Boat Show on opening weekend only from January 19 – 21.

#### **France's Canal du Midi by Rental Boat – Steven Bull**

There IS such thing as an affordable boating experience in the South of France. Join Water Ways TV host, Steven Bull, as he takes audiences through his cruise vacation with Le Boat on the historic Canal du Midi including historic locks, incredible restaurants and wineries, transiting Europe's first navigable canal tunnel - still in use nearly 350 years later! Steven will also be hosting seminars to share the best boating destinations in Ontario such as *Orillia: The Trent's Best Kept Secret*, and cruising *Canada's South Coast: Windsor & Essex County*.

#### **NEW - Traeger Grills Flavour Stage**

More than your average BBQ, Traeger Wood-Fired Grills will have you BBQing, baking, roasting, braising, grilling and smoking with the confidence of a true pitmaster. Impress family and friends with flavourful creations at the cottage, or on a boat, with recipes and grilling tips. Come see daily cooking seminars such as how to grill fish four ways – and stay to enjoy some of the delicious prepared samples!

### **The Golden Globe Race: What It Took to Complete and Win – Kirsten Neuschäfer (Live Stream)**

Kirsten recently won the Golden Globe Race 2022, a solo, non-stop, unassisted circumnavigation race that starts in France, down the Atlantic, Southern Ocean, and back - an approximate distance of 30,000 nautical miles on a <36ft boat without any of the modern navigational tools, such as GPS technology. Hear about her journey of attrition, luck, seamanship - and adventure! Live streaming at the Toronto Boat Show.

### **Cruising the Bruce Peninsula: Exploring Georgian Bay's Wild West Coast – Elizabeth Wilson**

Elizabeth Wilson, life-long Georgian Bay boater and creator of the popular website georgianbaybeauties.org is back to present tips and advice on cruising the rugged Bruce Peninsula! Audiences will be treated to video footage of the escarpment cliffs, caves, and turquoise waters of the Bruce shoreline along with a little history about this ecologically diverse part of Ontario – plus a little of the local “legend and lore.”

### **Around the World with Green Ghost - Jennifer Smith & Alex Nikolajevich**

Alex Nikolajevich and Jennifer Smith have spent three seasons in the Caribbean on their 42' sailboat, *Green Ghost*, from Vancouver to Toronto the long way around, crossing the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans. With 40,000+ nautical miles in their wake, they will take audiences on a whirlwind 'round the world tour, through the joys of the world's best cruising grounds, and the challenges of problem-solving enroute.

### **Exploring Ontario by PWC – Mark Forrest**

Mark Forrest has been exploring lakes and waterways with his Sea Doo for the past six years, and uploading his travels to his popular YouTube channel, Mark Forrest Adventures. At this seminar, guests will learn where to get started (including information on the best types of PWC for both smaller and larger bodies of water), how to use apps and websites for trip planning, and some of the best jet skiing locations in Ontario.

### **Boat Buying Basics - Jeff Evans, Pat Sturgeon, Barry Goodyear & Michael Hewett**

This seminar and Q&A opportunity will address the most important considerations for buying a boat with valuable tips to avoid common mistakes. Discussions range from the benefits of getting a marine survey, what to include in an offer to purchase, why and when to get marine insurance, vessel licensing, and much more. At the end of the session there will be time to ask questions with longstanding experts in the boating industry.

### **Unlock the Trent-Severn Waterway – Chad Buchner**

Chad Buchner, Manager of Operations for the Trent-Severn Waterway, presents this one-of-a-kind seminar, taking audiences on an exclusive insider's journey! Experience a behind-the-scenes look at the world-renowned TSW and gain an in-depth understanding (plus some insider tips and tricks) to plan your adventure. Whether you're a newcomer to the Waterway or a seasoned boater, this interactive seminar has something for everyone.

### **Living the Great Loop Adventure – Cam & Heather Stevens**

Join Cam and Heather Stevens as they share the experience of a lifetime on their Great Loop adventure. Discover how they equipped their boat for the loop, the spare parts they carried, their favourite stops, and informative statistics from their journey. This seminar offers a straightforward look at the practical aspects and personal highlights of their extraordinary 6,500-mile nautical adventure.

Plan ahead online and check out the Toronto Boat Show's comprehensive seminar schedule covering resources, topics, advice, how-to's and inspiration for all boating interests, levels and lifestyles.

[www.torontoboatshow.com](http://www.torontoboatshow.com)

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### **ABOUT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW:**

The Toronto International Boat Show is owned and produced by Canadian Boat Shows. In generating more than \$354 million in economic impact to the region, it is the Largest Indoor Boat Show in North America. More boats are purchased at the Toronto International Boat Show than at any other place or event in Canada. About 43% of Canadians (12.4 million people) participate in boating and 20% (6 million) own a boat. Direct revenues across Canada's core recreational boating industry total nearly \$5 billion per year, and directly employ approximately 45,000 Canadians. (NMMA Canada – The Economic Impact of Recreational Boating in Canada).